The world is changing
We need to talk
We need to have
Brave Conversations

SYDNEY | MARCH 18 2020
In partnership with Seer Data & Analytics

Humans, Values, Technology
Web Science in Practice

Brave Conversations was created to bridge the gap between research and social practice in terms of the social impacts of emergent information technologies. We call this Web Science, the Theory and Practice of Social Machines. You probably just call it ‘managing your technology’.

Social interaction technologies underpin virtually every aspect of our daily lives but how often do we stop to think about the impact they are having, and question the day to day choices that we make. Brave Conversations seeks to unpack some of these choices and provide the space where the humans in the room can more fully understand, explore and investigate the world we are creating and its impact on our selves, our communities, our societies and our planet.

After having held Brave Conversations events around the globe we are seeing similarities and differences in the ways that different cultures and communities use technologies, their access to data and information, and their ability to think through the consequences.

In Sydney, we will explore how technologies are impacting our lives, communities and democracy by considering the spread of disinformation during the summer bushfires, exciting solutions to help bridge the data divide and improve lives and the local growing civic tech industry and among many other topics.

Background

In 2008 a group of people from industry, government, academia, and the community sectors came together to create the first the Meta conference in Australia which sought to provide a forum for people to discuss and debate the emerging issues related to humans and their use of digital technologies.

At about the same time a group of luminaries from the Web world were creating Web Science in order to focus interdisciplinary research on precisely the same thing.

In 2017 these two groups came together to create Brave Conversations.

“We shape our technologies and forever after they shape us.”
- Marshall McLuhan
The Evolving Web

The Web dominates how most of us interact with each other and with the societies in which we live. It has provided new digital platforms which have given rise to the largest companies of the modern era; it has enabled massive societal change on a global scale, and it is facilitating powerful new socio-technical systems which are changing the very notion of human research, science and potentially human evolution.

We can feel that things are changing all around us, but

• How often do we find the time to step back in a space with others from diverse backgrounds, knowledge, perspectives and skills, to critically examine what is happening around us?
• How often do we engage in a robust and challenging dialogue and debate about what sort of future we want to create for ourselves and for future generations?
• How often do we feel that our opinions are respected, that we have the space to imagine real possibilities, and that we can take some proactive control of the world that is emerging?

Objectives

The goal of Brave Conversations is to challenge and also empower everyone who participates. There is no pre-requisite of knowledge or expertise, and we seek to encourage as diverse a group of participants as possible from all walks of life, ages and stages.

We will explore the decisions that we make on a minute by minute basis and impact us all on a personal, community, societal and planetary level, in order to make explicit how our engagement with social technologies is changing everything.

REGISTRATION & TICKETS

More Info: www.braveconversations.org/sydney-2020/

How it works

Brave Conversations is not your average ‘conference’. There are no lectures or talks, it works through the conversations which are generated by the participants in the room who bring their backgrounds, knowledge and experience to discussing the relationship between technology and society.

We start small, with “You”, by asking how your everyday life is mediated and determined by the technologies you use. We then move to groups and communities, and then to the broader societal questions as a whole. The day is thoroughly facilitated utilising a range of tools and processes which bring to the surface conversations which people are having at home or at work, but at Brave Conversations you have time to think about these conversations and to reflect on how to more proactively take control of how you live your digital life.

We create a fast-paced learning environment where there is no time to get bored but the focus is on being in the room with the other human beings around you.

Brave Conversations Sydney

WHEN Wednesday 18th of March 2020
9am - 5pm | Registrations 8.30am

WHERE AI Hub
Tank Stream Labs Barangaroo
1 Munn St, Sydney NSW 2000

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